

first responders. In recent years, however, the American people have been reminded of the vital protections they provide to our communities. From the Twin Towers in 2001 to the Boston Marathon in 2013, we have seen these heroes rush into danger that others flee. We have seen them risk their lives to save the lives of others.

That is precisely what the people of Lewiston have seen since their first fire company was established in 1849. Through the years, fire has claimed textile and lumber mills, stores and schools, homes and even city hall. Yet never has a fire, no matter how fierce, been allowed to spiral out of control into a conflagration. The willingness of the people of Lewiston to always rebuild is testament to the confidence they have that their valiant firefighters will protect their property and their lives.

That protection comes at a high price. The Lewiston Firefighters Memorial bears the names of nine men who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

Today, under the leadership of Fire Chief Paul LeClair and International Association of Firefighters Local 785 president Rick Cailler, the Lewiston Fire Department is recognized as one of the best in Maine, known for its professionalism, efficiency, and dedication. In the special language of the firefighter community, the Lewiston firefighters are considered “the toughest Jakes on the job.”

They are tough yet filled with community spirit and compassion. Through the generosity of its members, the Local 785 Community Fund sponsors youth sports teams, charities, and the arts, and provides children in need with Christmas toys. Their annual “Fill the Boot” campaign raises many thousands of dollars for the fight against Muscular Dystrophy.

America's firefighters play a vital role in the security of our Nation and the safety of our people. Whether it is in response to a terrorist attack, a natural disaster, or a fire, Americans rely on our firefighters, and our firefighters always answer the call. The firefighters of Lewiston, ME, are a shining example of that commitment, and I join the people of their city in saluting them.

RECOGNIZING TONY PETKOVSEK

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Tony Petkovsek, who will be inducted into the International Polka Association Hall of Fame on August 3, 2013. Mr. Petkovsek has devoted his life's work to cultivating Cleveland-Slovenian music and culture, most notably by hosting the longest running daily radio show in the world.

Growing up in Cleveland's St. Clair neighborhood, Mr. Petkovsek was immersed in Slovenian culture from a young age. After completing college and broadcasting school, he began producing and broadcasting his own radio shows on Cleveland's WXEN, on No-

vember 23, 1961, which was Thanksgiving Day. Since 1962, his show has been broadcasted daily.

Mr. Petkovsek is one of the most prominent ambassadors of Cleveland-style polka both locally and nationally. In 1967, he originated the Polka Tour at Kollander World Travel, which has since taken thousands of polka fans all over the world. His annual Thanksgiving celebration evolved from a dance in 1963 to a national focal point of Cleveland-style polkas, attracting polka fans from all over America to join the festivities. Mr. Petkovsek was instrumental in founding the United Slovenian Society, the Cleveland-Slovenian Radio Club, the East 185th Street Business Association, and the American Slovenian Polka Foundation. Notably, Mr. Petkovsek served on the Ohio Arts Council under Gov. George Voinovich.

His contributions to Cleveland-style polka have been widely recognized over the years. Some of these honors have included the Federation of Slovenian Homes' “Man of the Year” in 1966, his induction into the St. Joseph High School Hall of Fame in 1987 and his induction into the National Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 1991. Mr. Petkovsek was also recognized with a merit badge by the President of Slovenia, Danilo Turk, in 2012 for his service to the country of Slovenia and to Slovenians in Cleveland.

I would like to honor Tony Petkovsek for his contributions to Cleveland-style polka and to the Cleveland Slovenian community.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

UCLA BRUINS NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the University of California, Los Angeles baseball team for winning the 2013 National Collegiate Athletics Association, NCAA, Division I College World Series. On June 25, the UCLA Bruins capped off a magical season and earned their first baseball national championship by sweeping the Mississippi State Bulldogs.

This victory wouldn't have been possible without the determination and teamwork of the skilled and dedicated players and the devoted coaching and training staff, led by head coach John Savage. The 2013 Bruins showed these extraordinary qualities all season, finishing with a 49-17 record and matching a school record with 21 wins in the Pac-12 conference play.

During the NCAA Regionals and Super Regionals, the Bruins began their undefeated march through the postseason by defeating worthy and spirited opponents from San Diego State, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, the University of San Diego, and Cal State Fullerton en route to earning their third trip in 4 years to the prestigious College World Series in Omaha, NE.

In the College World Series, the Bruins unleashed a historic display of overpowering pitching, steady defense, and timely hitting to defeat competition from Louisiana State, North Carolina State, the University of North Carolina, and Mississippi State to capture the first national championship in UCLA baseball history. The Bruins became the first championship team to allow one run or fewer in every College World Series game. In total, the Bruins allowed just 14 runs during their dominant 10-0 run through the NCAA tournament.

True to their reputation as a team of great resolve and determination, the Bruins were bolstered by contributions from every player on their roster. They worked together to ensure that the College World Series trophy will finally make its way to UCLA, a school with a rich baseball tradition that includes Jackie Robinson, who honed his prodigious skills before becoming a National Baseball Hall of Famer and national hero. With the addition of the College World Series trophy, the UCLA Hall of Champions will now boast an unmatched 109 NCAA team championships.

It is my pleasure to congratulate UCLA students, families, alumni, faculty, and Bruin fans, as they celebrate their 2013 National Collegiate Athletics Association Division I College World Series victory and their remarkable and memorable season.●

REMEMBERING LUKE SHEEHY

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Luke Sheehy, a loving son, devoted friend, and courageous firefighter. Luke Sheehy passed away on June 10, 2013, succumbing to injuries he sustained while heroically combating a wildfire in the Modoc National Forest. He was 28 years old.

Luke Sheehy was born in Susanville, CA, graduated from Susanville High School, and attended the Shasta College Fire Academy. After serving as a firefighter with the California Department of Forestry and the Bureau of Land Management's Diamond Mountain Hotshots, Luke became a U.S. Forest Service Smokejumper, parachuting from airplanes to fight fires in remote and hard-to-access areas, helping to train new smokejumpers and earning respect for his strong work ethic and leadership abilities.

Those who knew him best will remember Luke as a genuine friend who loved his family and enjoyed hunting, fishing, snowboarding and the piano, guitar and fiddle.

My heart goes out to Luke's family, loved ones, and colleagues, and my thoughts and prayers are with them.

Luke Sheehy, like all those who fight fires across California, put his life on the line to protect our families and communities. We are forever indebted to him for his courage, service and sacrifice, and he will be dearly missed.●